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Chapter 521 Giving Me 200,000 yuan?

Mr. Xu's expression softened. "Anran, I'll give you ten million yuan. Just take it as pocket money. Xu Zidie is just a daughter from the side family, yet she's spending so much money. You're the daughter of the Xu family, so you can't be worse than her. If you think it's not enough, I'll give you another ten million." "Just now, I gave Qiao Xi 200,000 yuan because I was afraid that she would be upset. Anran, you should know very well that you're my favorite daughter. You and Shen Yu had a misunderstanding regarding the production earlier. You have to explain it clearly. We have to build a good relationship with the Shen family in the capital. This will be very helpful to the Xu family's business."

Xu Anran nodded obediently and smiled proudly. She knew that her parents still liked her best. Qiao Xi was just a stranger with blood relations.

Her father gave her ten million yuan but only 200,000 yuan to Qiao Xi. This was enough to explain everything.

To the Xu family, 200,000 yuan was only the price of a pair of shoes or a set of clothes. The desk in her room was worth 100,000 yuan. Seeing Qiao Xi's happy expression and how she happily went upstairs after taking 200,000 yuan, she was really a country bumpkin.

Xu Anran smiled. "Don't worry, Dad. I'll definitely do well at the banquet."

In the bedroom upstairs.

After Qiao Xi entered, she casually tossed the bank card on the table.

Mr. Xu was only willing to fork out 200,000 yuan?

As expected of this family! This father of hers was not filled with hostility like Madam Xu, nor was he scheming like Xu Anran. He was quite good to her, but Qiao Xi knew very well that although Mr. Xu seemed to be very good to her on the surface, it was actually just because he thought she could be of some use to him. He just wanted to use her to please Gu Zheng at the Shen family's banquet.

Unfortunately, the Shen family was her family, and Gu Zheng was her husband!

How could the Xu family beat her?

The next day. The news that the Shen family was holding a banquet in Li City had spread throughout high society. However, they did not invite many people this time. They only invited some relatives and friends.

Hence, the Xu family was very proud of being able to receive the Shen family's invitation. They thought that the Xu family was considered a friend of the Shen family.

To everyone, the Shen family inviting the Xu family meant that they wanted to get to know the Xu family, so they handed them an invitation. If the Xu family was interested, they would naturally attend.

Although the Xu family of Luo City had the Xia family as their backer, their foundation was still unstable. In the past few years, they had been mediocre among the wealthy families.

As the daughter of the Xia family, Madam Xu naturally knew the importance of this banquet. Hence, she reminded her daughter, “Anran, you have to follow me closely when we’re at the banquet. Moreover, Madam Shen said that this is just a gathering with friends and relatives. Don’t dress too formally, or it’ll look too much.”

Madam Xu had already prepared a dress for Xu Anran to wear to the banquet. It did not look too gorgeous. The dress reached her knees. It was a light blue princess dress. However, if one looked carefully, one would realize that the dress was exquisite. The diamond at the waist shone under the light.

Xu Anran smiled proudly. “Thank you, Mom! This dress is really beautiful, but Sister... What is she wearing to attend the banquet?”

When she heard this, Madam Xu’s eyes were filled with impatience. “She can just casually wear whatever. Anyway, she’s not going because of the banquet. She just has to please Gu Zheng! She’s a wild girl who grew up in the countryside. No matter how well she dresses, she still can’t hide her rustic aura. It’s already her honor that we’re letting her attend this banquet!” The corners of Xu Anran’s mouth curled up as a trace of viciousness flashed past her eyes.

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“Anran, I think you can get to know President Gu. It’s just that your brother angered him previously. After this matter is over and your brother is released, I’ll arrange for the two of you to meet. You have to perform well and try to win him over!”

Xu Anran was extremely shy. “Mom! Don’t say that!”

“Why are you shy?! You’re already a big girl. Actually, I can tell that you like President Gu. You’re so beautiful. As long as you use a few small tricks, President Gu will definitely like you!”

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In the Shen family’s residence.

Mr. Xu took out the invitation letter. The servants immediately invited them in respectfully and sent someone to lead the way.

Chapter 522 The Shen Family’s Banquet

At this moment, Butler Liu of the Shen family walked over. Xu Zhi and Xia Yunlou knew that this butler had worked in the Shen family for decades. The entire Shen family treated him as family, so no one dared to offend him.

Xu Zhi hurriedly greeted warmly, “Hello, Butler Liu.”

Butler Liu glanced meaningfully at Qiao Xi, then smiled lightly. “Mr. Xu, Madam Xu, please!”

Xu Zhi immediately beamed. Since Butler Liu was so easy-going with them, it meant that the Shen family thought highly of the Xu family. Xia Yunlou and Xu Anran also went forward to greet him. Only Qiao Xi remained silent.

After Butler Liu left, Xia Yunlou immediately reprimanded her unhappily, “Qiao Xi! You’re really rude! You don’t even greet people when you see them. When you’re out, don’t ever say that you’re the daughter of my Xu family. You’ll make us lose all our dignity!”

At this moment, the guests gradually walked in.

Xu Anran immediately walked in front of Qiao Xi and said weakly, “Sister, don’t blame Mom for calling you out. You have to understand the importance of etiquette when attending banquets. You might not have attended banquets before and don’t know these rules. If you have anything you don’t understand, you can ask me. Don’t offend the other guests. Butler Liu isn’t just a servant in the Shen family but you’ve offended him as soon as you entered. Aren’t you making things difficult for Dad and Mom?!”

Qiao Xi did not say anything while Xu Anran continued nagging, “Sister, although you haven’t learned these rules, you... You’re the daughter of the Xu family, after all. You have to attend many banquets in the future, so you have to try to learn the rules. Don’t lose your temper, alright?”

“You grew up in the countryside and have definitely never attended occasions like this. However, this is the Shen family’s residence, not our own home. Even if you see something valuable here, you can’t take it without the owner’s permission. Do you hear me?”

Although Xu Anran’s voice was not loud, everyone could hear her clearly. They could not help but discuss softly.

“The Xu family said that Qiao Xi offended Butler Liu? Are they joking?” “They’re shooting themselves in the foot this time. Everyone who’s attending the banquet knows that Qiao Xi is the beloved daughter of the Shen couple. Moreover, she’s President Gu’s wife. This adopted daughter of the Xu family actually dares to publicly reprimand Miss Qiao? She’s really overestimating herself!”

“Look at the Xu family. They probably don’t know that Butler Liu gave them the honor of greeting them only because Qiao Xi is with them. Without Qiao Xi, Butler Liu wouldn’t even look at the Xu family!”

“All the guests present know about the relationship between Miss Qiao and the Shen family, except for the Xu family. They’re really stupid! If it weren’t for Miss Qiao, would they be qualified to attend the Shen family’s banquet?”

The Xu family did not hear the guests’ discussion.

Xu Zhi frowned. “Anran, stop talking. I’ve already told your sister. She’s not a child. You don’t have to say anymore.” Xu Anran immediately looked aggrieved. “Dad, it’s my fault. I thought that my sister didn’t remember, so I reminded her again. I... I’m also afraid that she’ll do something bad. I’m not... I’m not teaching my sister a lesson or anything. I’m just reminding her.”

Xia Yunlou immediately protected Xu Anran and shouted at Xu Zhi, “Why are you so fierce?! Anran is doing this for the sake of the Xu family. It’s all Qiao Xi’s fault for being rude. She doesn’t even know how to greet people when she sees them. Anran is afraid that Qiao Xi will embarrass the Xu family, so she

said a few words to her. I already said not to bring this jinx to the banquet, but you just didn't listen to me and insisted on bringing her here. How embarrassing!"

Xu Zhi raised his eyes to look at Qiao Xi with an impatient expression.

He could not help but snort. "Before we left, I already gave you a reminder. You've only been here for a while. Why are you so stupid?! You should learn from your sister Anran. Don't embarrass the Xu family!" Xu Zhi lowered his voice. "Qiao Xi, don't forget why you're here today. President Gu is also here in the Shen family. Go look for President Gu now. I don't care what you do, but you have to get President Gu to agree to the settlement and let your brother go."

Qiao Xi slowly raised her eyes and said, "But... the banquet is about to start. If I'm not around, then..."

Chapter 523 She Has Her Family

"Why are you still thinking about the banquet? The most important matter is to save your brother!" Xia Yunlou interrupted unhappily. "Do you think I brought you here to attend the banquet? Actually, it doesn't matter whether you come or not. Now that you've shown yourself, the Shen family won't say anything."

"Let me tell you, we have to get President Gu to relent and reconcile with us today no matter what. It's all your fault. If you hadn't called the police, your brother wouldn't have been captured. Hence, you have to solve this matter!"

Qiao Xi's expression was indifferent. "I came to attend the banquet but disappeared in the Shen family's residence. It won't affect the two of you, but it won't be good for my reputation if news of this gets out!"

Xu Zhi immediately choked.

Xia Yunlou could not help but roar, "So what if your reputation goes down the hill?! You can't represent the Xu family. Anran's and your brother's reputation is the most important thing now!"

"You grew up in the countryside and don't know etiquette. You're extremely crude. I don't expect you to have a good reputation either. I might as well sacrifice you to help everyone. What other concerns do you have? Hurry up and go!"

Qiao Xi's expression turned cold, then she raised her eyes to look at Butler Liu, who was standing in the corner. She nodded indifferently. "Alright."

"Madam Xu..." Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly stopped in her tracks and turned around. "I'll be right back. I hope you won't be too surprised when the time comes!"

Xia Yunlou frowned. "Hurry up and go! Don't pretend to be mysterious. Who knows what you're going to do?!" Xu Anran hurriedly said, "Mom, I think Sister might be unhappy. She thought she was here to attend the banquet but she's not even allowed to show her face now. She must be feeling uncomfortable and think that you guys are targeting her..."

She looked helpless. "Actually, it's because of my sister that my brother got locked up, so she should be responsible for this. I think you guys did the right thing."

Xia Yunlou nodded in satisfaction. "Look at how sensible our Anran is. Quick, let's go in."

At this moment, Qiao Xi had already walked to a corner.

Butler Liu immediately bowed respectfully. "Miss, we've already recorded the video according to your request. The banquet will start in an hour. Do you want to go to Madam's place to rest first? Madam has already prepared the pastries you like and is waiting for you to go over!"

Qiao Xi nodded and followed Butler Liu into the inner courtyard. "Miss, Madam said that you don't have to worry. With her around, no one can bully you. She'll help you deal with the Xu family. Just rest here."

Qiao Xi's heart was warm. This room was obviously decorated for a young lady. It must have been specially prepared for her. The pastries and other food on the table were all carefully prepared.

Butler Liu said, "Miss, Madam said that this banquet is for you, but it's up to you to decide if you want to attend. If you don't want to attend, then you can rest peacefully here. You can leave everything to her."

Leave everything to her... After Butler Liu left, these words kept repeating in Qiao Xi's mind. She could not help but sniffle. Actually, she had never cared whether she was the biological daughter of the Xu family or not because she had long since found a family that cherished her.

After Qiao Xi fell asleep, Shen Yu came over once.

Song Shiyu stood not far away and looked resentful. "President, Young Master Shen has gone in. Y- You're not going to do anything?"

"You're noisy."

"President, I'm doing this for you! Actually, I've been keeping some things to myself for a long time. I really can't take it anymore this time."

Gu Zheng did not even raise his head. "You'd better endure it."

Song Shiyu looked serious as if he was facing death. "I have to say it no matter what. I'll say it even if it'll cost me my salary! President! You know Young Madam's identity as well. She's the descendant of the divine physician and has four outstanding brothers. Moreover, the families behind these four brothers dote on Young Madam as though she's their biological sister."

Gu Zheng did not understand. Song Shiyu said seriously, "Not only that, but Young Madam is also a designer and the champion of the translation competition. She knows how to play the violin, has medical skills, looks good, and has a good figure.

"Look at yourself. You're hot-tempered and a bastard in Young Madam's heart. Do you think you're worthy of Young Madam? If you don't change yourself, you might be abandoned by Young Madam one day. Are you really not anxious at all? President!"

In an instant, the air seemed to have frozen.

Chapter 524 Exposing Family Scandals

Song Shiyu was trembling. He was really sacrificing too much for the president's happiness. Everything he said was true. He was like a loyal eunuch beside the ancient emperor. After saying this, he closed his eyes as though he was ready to face death.

Unexpectedly, Gu Zheng smiled. Song Shiyu's heart skipped a beat. The president's smile only made things worse. He was already mourning for himself, but Gu Zheng nodded affirmatively.

"You're right.

"I do have to work hard. How can I let another man enter my wife's room?"

Song Shiyu: "?"

Before he could say anything, Gu Zheng stood up and left. He stood there and looked at Gu Zheng's back view in a daze. His president was finally enlightened.

An hour later.

Qiao Xi slowly opened her eyes. The curtains were blocked. The room was very dark, but Qiao Xi still spotted a tall man standing by the bed.

"Ah Zheng?"

Gu Zheng's voice was hoarse. "Yes."

Qiao Xi reached out to switch on the bedside lamp and sized him up under the light. Indeed, his eyes were gray, dim, and empty.

Her heart ached as she asked in surprise, "The curtains are drawn. Why are you here?"

Qiao Xi knew that the dark environment would affect Gu Zheng's eyes. Hence, wherever he went, the place had to always be bright. The servants in Longwan Residential were also very tactful. As long as Gu Zheng appeared, they would turn on the brightest lights.

Qiao Xi's heart ached. "You can't see. You don't have to come in to accompany me."

Song Shiyu stood at the door, looking excited. 'President! Young Madam must be very touched now. Tell her that even though you can't see anything, you insist on accompanying her!'

Gu Zheng said, "I... I just came in. I'm fine."

Song Shiyu: "..."

Qiao Xi hurriedly got up and pulled open the curtains. Gu Zheng closed his eyes to calm himself down for a while. When he opened them again, his eyes gradually recovered their clarity. "Shen Yu asked me to give you this."

Qiao Xi took it. There was a tablet in her bag that was connected to the cameras in the banquet hall. She could see everything that was happening at the banquet.

At this moment, all the guests had arrived and were sitting at their designated seats. There were only a few people who were invited to the banquet this time, so the empty seats were obvious.

After Madam Shen sat down, she glanced around and coldly glanced at the Xu family. She sneered.

“Mr. Xu, Madam Xu, this is your first time attending the Shen family’s banquet, right? I heard that the Xu family has two daughters. Why is there only one with you?” Everyone’s gazes fell on the three of them. Xu Zhi could not say that Qiao Xi was trying to please Gu Zheng, so he said helplessly, “Xi Xi is young and a little playful. I don’t know where she went off to play. Madam Shen, please don’t take offense. I’ll get her to apologize to you another day.” Madam Shen’s slender fingers tapped the table lightly. “I heard that she’s the biological daughter of the Xu family who was previously missing for many years. Madam Xu, how could you not keep an eye on your daughter? She disappeared right after the banquet started.”

Xia Yunlou’s expression was ugly as she replied nervously, “Madam Shen, I want to take good care of this daughter of mine as well, but... she’s really a little naughty. After all, she grew up in the countryside and hasn’t seen much of the world. She doesn’t know the rules of high society, so I don’t know where she went. Madam Shen, please don’t lower yourself to her level. I’ll definitely teach her well.”

Qiao Xi held the tablet and could not help but sneer. Any normal person would know that family scandals could not be made public, but in order to slander her reputation, Madam Xu actually said in public that her daughter grew up in the countryside and was naughty.

The entire banquet hall instantly fell silent.

Everyone looked at the Xu family awkwardly. Then, they could not help but whisper and look at the Xu family as though they were looking at fools.

During the Shen family’s banquet, Madam Xu said that the daughter of the Shen family did not know etiquette and was a country bumpkin. She even said that she was naughty and mischievous?

Was there something wrong with the Xu couple? Were they openly challenging Madam Shen’s patience?

Madam Shen said, “Oh, I see. So, it’s Miss Xu who doesn’t know how to appreciate others’ kindness? She came to attend the Shen family’s banquet but is wandering around. Now that the banquet has started, she’s nowhere to be seen.”

Xia Yunlou hurriedly nodded. “Madam Shen, you’re right. She doesn’t know how to appreciate others’ kindness. Although... she’s my biological daughter, she’s completely unlike the children of our Xu family. Her behavior is crude, and she doesn’t look like a socialite at

all!”

Chapter 525 If She Doesn’t Even Care About Her Biological Daughter, What Does She Care About?

“I don’t have a choice either. I didn’t plan on bringing her here, but I was afraid that she would be upset. I’ve been on tenterhooks the entire time!

“It’s only because Anran has a gentle character and doesn’t despise her younger sister that we agreed to let the child out after she begged us for a long time. In the end... As soon as the banquet started, this child disappeared! Anran is still sensible. Although she’s not related to us by blood, she’s more like the daughter of our Xu family.”

What Xia Yunlou meant was that although her biological daughter had returned home, the family still favored their adopted daughter. Her adopted daughter was kind, sensible, obedient, and a top socialite. Her biological daughter was vulgar and did not deserve to be the Xu family's daughter. Hence, they could only give up on that child and focus on nurturing their adopted daughter.

Xia Yunlou pretended to be helpless. She felt that she was not showing any disgust on her face. In her mind, she just looked helpless.

However, when everyone heard her words, they remained silent and looked at them with disdain.

The guests were all famous people in high society. They had to mind their identities and image outside, but at this moment, they especially wanted to say, 'Does everyone in the Xu family suffer from brain damage?'

Madam Shen's expression was cold. "So, it's because your biological daughter is so naughty and doesn't know etiquette that you let an adopted daughter take her place?"

Xia Yunlou could not help but be stunned. "Yes... that's how it is. I wanted Xi Xi to follow me and show her face in front of everyone, but she kept running around and disappeared in the blink of an eye..."

"You dare to lie to me?" Madam Shen narrowed her eyes and slammed the table. Xia Yunlou was terrified to the point of trembling. She explained, "Madam Shen, I... I didn't lie to you. Qiao Xi left by herself. I'm her biological mother, so how could I lie? She's too naughty..."

"Mr. Xu, Madam Xu."

At this moment, Butler Liu walked forward with a faint smile on his face. "There was a conflict at the entrance of the Xu family just now. I've also just learned something."

Xia Yunlou frowned, not understanding why Madam Shen would suddenly flare up. Even if the Xu family did not like Qiao Xi, it had nothing to do with the Shen family. Although the Shen family was rich and powerful, they should not interfere in other people's family matters.

Moreover, she got angry at her in front of everyone. She was clearly not giving her any face.

Xia Yunlou suppressed her anger. "Madam Shen, we—"

"Madam Xu, even though you're Miss Qiao Xi's mother, there are some things that you did wrong. As the host, Madam Shen has the right to say something."

Butler Liu said indifferently, "Madam Xu, you seem to be sure of your words. You're saying that Miss Qiao Xi is naughty and unruly, so that's why she's nowhere to be seen now?"

"Of... Of course!"

"Why are you still thinking about the banquet? The most important matter is to save your brother! Do you think I brought you here to attend the banquet? Actually, it doesn't matter whether you come or not. Now that you've shown yourself, the Shen family won't say anything. "Let me tell you, we have to

get President Gu to relent and reconcile with us today no matter what. It's all your fault. If you hadn't called the police, your brother wouldn't have been captured. Hence, you have to solve this matter!

"So what if your reputation goes down the hill?! You can't represent the Xu family. Anran's and your brother's reputation is the most important thing now! You grew up in the countryside and don't know etiquette. You're extremely crude. I don't expect you to have a good reputation either. I might as well sacrifice you to help everyone. What other concerns do you have? Hurry up and go!"

Xia Yunlou's voice sounded from the phone. The entire venue was silent.

Madam Shen's gaze was cold. "Mr. Xu, if Butler Liu hadn't checked the surveillance footage, everyone would have misunderstood Miss Xu. I really don't understand why you and your wife are slandering your biological daughter?"

Shen Yu's gentle face was full of smiles, but his voice was so cold that it made one's body tremble. "I heard that Young Master Xu got people to kill his own sister. However, Madam Xu is blaming her biological daughter instead. She doesn't even care about her biological daughter's life. What else does the Xu family care about, then? Uncle Liu, please have the Xu family leave!"

Chapter 526 Feelings Can Be Nurtured

Butler Liu said, "Yes, Young Master! This family doesn't even care about their biological daughter. What else do they care about, then? Please leave!"

"This... What does this have to do with you..." Xia Yunlou looked embarrassed. She wanted to retort but did not have the guts.

Xu Anran gritted her teeth with a gloomy expression. This Butler Liu was really a busybody. What right did he have to release the recording?!

Xia Yunlou shifted her eyes and said obsequiously, "Madam Shen, you really can't blame me for this. I... I actually heard that Xi Xi often fooled around outside before we reunited. She has seduced many men, so I deliberately said that to see if she would agree.

"As for Anyi's matter, we all know very well that Anyi is too much of a troublemaker. It's only right for President Gu to punish Anyi. I asked Xi Xi to please President Gu because I wanted to test her. I wanted to see if she would take this opportunity to deliberately approach President Gu and seduce him.

"If she really seduced President Gu, I would bring her back and teach her well. I'm Xi Xi's biological mother, so I won't harm her. I just want to nurture her so that she won't go astray.

"I did it for her own good!

"But I didn't expect her to actually agree. Moreover, she hasn't been back for so long. Xi Xi and Anyi don't have any feelings for each other, so she's definitely not pleading for her brother. I think she must have gone to seduce President Gu in hopes of climbing up the social ladder. I really didn't expect our biological daughter to be so unbearable. It's not wrong for me to not like her. After all, what she's doing is too embarrassing!"

Madam Shen sneered. The Xu family clearly wanted Xi Xi to curry favor with Gu Zheng and wanted Gu Zheng to let Xu Anyi go. Now that the matter had been exposed, they even forcefully pushed all the

responsibility to Xi Xi. Xia Yunlou pretended to be sad. "I didn't expect this daughter of mine to not only be naughty and mischievous, but she even abandoned her reputation for a man. Our Xu family has been utterly embarrassed! I... I really am left with no choice."

Xia Yunlou was talking excitedly, but everyone's faces were cold and disdainful.

At this moment, someone finally could not help but say, "Madam Xu, you probably don't know yet..."

Xia Yunlou ignored them and continued pretending to be sad. "No matter what, Xi Xi is my biological child. How can I not feel sorry for her? However, I really can't control this child.

"Xi Xi, our biological daughter, is insensible. On the other hand, Anran is obedient. Actually, she has also admired President Gu for many years. However, as a top socialite, she has never stepped out of line. She has always been disciplined.

"Look at Xi Xi, that child. She ran after President Gu. It's been so long but she still hasn't come back. I don't know what she's doing now. She clearly knows that Anran likes President Gu, but she disregarded their relationship as sisters and her reputation to fight with her sister for a man.

"It's all my fault. I didn't teach my daughter well. If Madam Shen thinks that I've done a bad job at raising my daughter as well, then you can chase me out. I have no complaints." Xia Yunlou's words were eloquent, and her face was filled with sorrow. She displayed the image of a mother who had sacrificed everything for her daughter. However, everyone was not moved at all. Instead, they looked at her as though she was a fool.

Someone reminded her awkwardly, "Madam Xu, you said that Eldest Miss Xu likes President Gu. That doesn't seem appropriate--"

Before the other party could finish, Xia Yunlou interrupted arrogantly. "What's inappropriate about it? Anran is the daughter of the Xu and Xia families. She's the apple of our eyes. Her marrying President Gu is appropriate considering her status. Although I know that President Gu might not like Anran yet, feelings can be nurtured.

"I'm Anran's mother, so I naturally have to help her fulfill her wish. I hope President Gu can take notice of my outstanding daughter. I believe that as long as he's willing to get to know her, he'll definitely like her." Everyone could not help but be stunned.

The Xu family was too shameless. They thought Xu Anran was worthy of marrying President Gu? The Xu family was a noble family? Did they think that Xu Anran was a fairy from heaven? Did they think every man would like her?

Chapter 527 Sorry, I'm Late

Moreover, the Xu family was really strange. They did not dote on their biological daughter but doted on an adopted daughter. They even belittled their biological daughter in public. What was even more shocking was that they did not know that Qiao Xi had already married President Gu.

One of the madams could not control the anger in her heart. "Madam Xu, we're all madams of high society, but I still can't help but complain today. Why are you so shameless?! Your daughter adores

President Gu, but does he have to like her back? Even if you don't like your biological daughter, you shouldn't slander her reputation in public, right? Are you worthy of being a mother?

"And you don't know, President Gu—".

Before she could finish, a cold female voice sounded from outside the door. "Sorry, I'm late."

Everyone widened their eyes.

They saw Qiao Xi holding Gu Zheng's arm as they slowly walked over. Everyone simultaneously looked at the Xu family. As expected, their eyes were filled with disbelief.

Xia Yunlou's face darkened. This little b*tch had to come back at this time!

After thinking for a moment, Xia Yunlou rushed forward and berated loudly, "So, you still knew to come back, huh?! We brought you to the banquet, but you disappeared in the blink of an eye. You even spent so much time with another man. Do you have any respect for me? Do you know what shame is?!"

These words implied that Qiao Xi and Gu Zheng had been fooling around. An hour had passed, so the two of them must have done something unspeakable. Gu Zheng's eyes were deep. The corners of Qiao Xi's lips curled up, then she sobbed aggrievedly. "Mom, why are you scolding me? Didn't you ask me to please President Gu? Although the case of my brother getting people to commit murder can't be so easily withdrawn, President Gu has already agreed not to pursue the matter. My brother can be released now."

Qiao Xi had an innocent expression. "I thought that you would praise me for saving my brother. Unexpectedly... Boo-hoo..."

Song Shiyu shook his head helplessly. He was already mourning the Xu family in his heart.

At this moment, the expressions on their faces were very interesting. They were shocked, angry, and frightened. They could not wait to escape from the banquet hall.

The entire venue was silent as everyone's gazes landed on Xia Yunlou.

Xu Anran glared fiercely at Qiao Xi and stared fixedly at her hand that was holding Gu Zheng's. She wished for nothing more than to burn a hole in Qiao Xi's hand.

Was this little b*tch worthy of standing beside President Gu?

Xu Anran had been pampered since she was young. She became an A-lister in the industry and was also a top socialite. She worked hard to become more outstanding so that she could be worthy of the most outstanding man in the world.

Originally, the Xu family had an engagement with another family, but Xu Anran did not like that useless man, so she asked her parents to look for Qiao Xi and have Qiao Xi marry that man in her place.

Her parents naturally looked down on that man's family too, but the engagement had been set. If they went back on their word, it would be a breach of their promise. That was why they thought of their biological daughter who was stranded outside.

Xu Anran was arrogant and had high expectations for her future partner. The moment she saw Gu Zheng, she knew that this man was the Prince Charming she had been waiting for. Only he was worthy of her.

Xu Anran looked at Gu Zheng shyly and instantly blushed.

Xia Yunlou looked at Qiao Xi's aggrieved appearance and felt depressed in her heart. She said impatiently, "You still have the cheek to ask? I did tell you to look for President Gu, but I was just testing you. I didn't expect you to be gone for so long. I don't know what horrible things you've done. You're really embarrassing our Xu family!"

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows and said slowly, "I see. So you wanted me to curry favor with President Gu just to test me. You didn't really want me to plead with him."

Xia Yunlou immediately choked.

However, since Qiao Xi had already said so, Xia Yunlou could only bite the bullet and admit it. Moreover, Qiao Xi had already said that President Gu had agreed to let Anyi off. President Gu probably would not go back on his words. She could just push all the blame to Qiao Xi. Qiao Xi would be the perfect foil to Anran's excellence. President Gu would definitely like Anran.

Xia Yunlou gritted his teeth. "Yes, I know that your brother did something wrong. It's reasonable for President Gu to punish him. I was just testing you. Who knew that you would take the opportunity to seduce President Gu? You even forgot about the banquet. Do you know what shame is?!"

Chapter 528 Who Gave Madam Xu Confidence?

Everyone was silent and looked awkward. Madam Shen, who was sitting at the head of the table, was so angry that her face turned red.

Xia Yunlou must be a fool!

Everyone had heard the recording just now. It was clearly Xia Yunlou who asked Qiao Xi to please President Gu. Now that President Gu had agreed, she pushed all the blame on Qiao Xi. This was too wicked.

When Xia Yunlou saw that Qiao Xi was silent, she thought that she had tacitly agreed to what she said. Just as Xia Yunlou thought that the matter was over, she heard Qiao Xi speak.

"I didn't expect you, my mother, to know that my brother did something wrong by getting people to kill me! You're going to jail."

She turned her head and said with a smile, "President Gu, if that's the case, then forget about what I said before." Gu Zheng nodded, then ordered casually, "Alright! Song Shiyu, sue Xu Anyi immediately."

Xia Yunlou's expression froze.

She did not... That was not what she meant. She just wanted to tell everyone that Qiao Xi was shameless and not as obedient or sensible as her daughter, Anran, who was reserved and calm. She did not expect President Gu to want to sue Anyi.

Xia Yunlou was unconvinced. "President Gu, this has nothing to do with Anyi. You've already agreed. You can't..."

"Didn't you say just now that my relationship with my brother is not good? I went to look for President Gu just to seduce him, not for my brother's sake at all. You even scolded me for being shameless. Since you think so, why should I do anything for you?"

Xia Yunlou cursed, "Shut up! You have no right to speak!"

Qiao Xi's expression was indifferent. "You asked me to curry favor with President Gu, so I did as you said. President Gu also agreed not to pursue the matter, but you kicked me to the curb after I outlived my usefulness. You're even calling me shameless. Aren't you going too far?"

Seeing that she was still refuting, Xia Yunlou instantly shouted in exasperation, "Can you shut up?! I'm talking to President Gu! What are you talking about?! President Gu agreed not to pursue the matter because of the Xu family. What has it got to do with you? Don't flatter yourself!"

As soon as she finished speaking, Gu Zheng said slowly, "Of course, it has to do with her."

Xia Yunlou widened her eyes. Xu Anran's heart could not help but skip a beat. "Madam Xu, don't tell me that you think I chose to pursue this matter earlier because of your Xu family or because of your... adopted daughter?" Gu Zheng's voice was cold.

"Isn't it?"

Xia Yunlou blurted out. How could an outstanding man like Gu Zheng fall for a wild girl like Qiao Xi who grew up in the countryside? Even if he were to like someone, he could only like a noble lady like Anran.

Hence, Xia Yunlou thought that Gu Zheng must have agreed to let Xu Anyi go because of Xu Anran.

Gu Zheng glanced coldly at the confident Xia Yunlou and sneered. "I wonder who gave Madam Xu the confidence?"

"President Gu, when you agreed not to pursue the matter, could it be because..."

Before Xia Yunlou could finish, Song Shijing said coldly, "Our president agreed to not pursue the matter because of Miss Qiao."

Xia Yunlou looked confused. "How is that possible?! President Gu, you must be trying to cover for Qiao Xi, but her reputation has already been ruined. She's secretly seducing you. Don't speak up for her. I'll bring her back now--"

"Madam Xu, how could our young madam be secretly seducing the president as you said?" Song Shijing's eyes were cold. "What's wrong with a pair of husband and wife attending the banquet together? I really don't understand what you mean, Madam Xu. Do you think only your adopted daughter is suitable to be with our president? Do you consider it an act of seduction when any other woman gets close to our president?"

Xu Zhi's body trembled when he heard this.

He and Xia Yunlou looked at each other and saw surprise in each other's eyes.

“Your young madam? Who? Do you mean Qiao Xi?”

Xia Yunlou’s eyes were filled with shock. She thought that she was hallucinating. “That’s impossible! President Gu, you can’t just say that she’s Mrs. Gu just to protect her. Only Anran is worthy of being Mrs. Gu...” “Shut up!”

Xu Zhi roared, then explained to Gu Zheng while trembling, “President Gu, my wife is drunk, so she said something she shouldn’t have. Please don’t blame her. I... I didn’t expect Xi Xi to be your wife. Then, we’re a family...”

Chapter 529 This Family Is Really Weird!

“Mr. Xu, it’s not up to you to decide whether we’re a family or not. Didn’t Madam Xu say that our young madam isn’t worthy to be the daughter of the Xu family?” Song Shijing interrupted. Gu Zheng did not even bother to look at Xu Zhi. He held Qiao Xi’s hand and sat down. Only the Xu family was left standing awkwardly in the center of the banquet hall.

Xu Zhi’s face was filled with horror. He finally knew why Qiao Xi looked down on the Xu family. It was because Gu Zheng was her backer. However, he did not understand why Gu Zheng would marry Qiao Xi.

Xu Zhi sized up Qiao Xi in confusion, then looked at the sobbing Xu Anran and sighed helplessly.

Of course, his heart ached for Anran. This daughter had always been arrogant. It was not easy for her to fall in love with a man. Unexpectedly, this man was her brother-in-law.

“Qiao Xi married President Gu a long time ago. Although the two of them didn’t hold a wedding, many people in the industry know about this, right?!” The guests looked puzzled. “That’s right! It’s fine if others don’t know, but as Mrs. Gu’s parents, they didn’t even know that their daughter was married?”

“Just look at Madam Xu’s attitude toward Qiao Xi. The Xu family doesn’t care about their biological daughter at all. They only have that adopted daughter in their hearts. Moreover, that adopted daughter likes President Gu. Xia Yunlou wanted Xu Anran to marry President Gu. She had no idea that her biological daughter was President Gu’s legitimate wife.”

“This family is really strange! They want to help their adopted daughter snatch their biological daughter’s husband? Moreover, I heard that the adopted daughter arranged a room for Qiao Xi in the basement and tampered with it. She wanted to burn Qiao Xi to death!”

“Huh? She’s too vicious! She looks innocent and harmless. Who would have thought that she would do such a thing?!”

Xia Yunlou was pulled by Xu Zhi and made to sit down. She gnashed her teeth and said, “Qiao Xi is married to Gu Zheng! Why didn’t she tell us earlier? She did it on purpose! She made us lose face in public!”

Xu Zhi also had a helpless expression. If he had known earlier that Qiao Xi was Mrs. Gu, he would not have let Qiao Xi suffer.

When he thought of the 200,000 yuan he had given Qiao Xi, Xu Zhi felt his face burn. 200,000 yuan was nothing to Gu Zheng. He reckoned that Qiao Xi’s heart was filled with ridicule when she accepted the money!

Now, Qiao Xi must be extremely disappointed in the Xu family. Coupled with the fact that she did not grow up by their sides, it would be difficult for her to help the Xu family gain benefits.

Xia Yunlou and Xu Anran had gloomy expressions.

They did not dare believe that Qiao Xi, someone who had led a wandering life outside, could actually marry a god-like man like Gu Zheng. Shouldn't she be a poor person living in the slums? What right did she have to snatch the man Anran liked?

Moreover, they came to Li City to look for Qiao Xi for the sake of the marriage agreement. Now that Qiao Xi was married, how should this matter be resolved? Xia Yunlou rolled her eyes and lowered her voice. "Hubby, do you think Xi Xi is suitable to be Mrs. Gu?"

"Xi Xi grew up in the countryside since she was young. She doesn't know any etiquette. How is she worthy of being Mrs. Gu? It's only because President Gu thinks she's a little pretty, so he's interested in her. He'll get sick of her soon. The woman President Gu should marry should be a noble daughter and a top socialite. Only a girl like Anran is worthy of him."

Xu Zhi was silent while Xia Yunlou continued, "Moreover, we came to Li City to look for Xi Xi for the sake of that marriage agreement. Could it be that you want Anran to marry that good-for-nothing? Qiao Xi, this wandering daughter, is so compatible with that good-for-nothing. Why don't we get Qiao Xi to divorce President Gu?"

"President Gu is good to Qiao Xi only because of her face. If he gets to know Anran, he'll definitely realize her good qualities and won't like Qiao Xi anymore."

"Although Qiao Xi is our biological daughter, she has no feelings for us. Even if she marries President Gu, it won't be of any use to our Xu family. However, Anran is different. Hubby, what do you think?"

"Everyone knows that Qiao Xi married Gu Zheng, but our Xu family didn't. She deliberately didn't tell us and made us lose face in front of everyone!"

The more Xu Zhi listened, the more his eyebrows furrowed. He could not help but feel angry. Even if Xi Xi was Mrs. Gu, it was useless if she was not close to the Xu family. However, if Mrs. Gu was Anran, then they would be a family with the Gu family.

Chapter 530 Persuading Mrs. Gu To Divorce

attention to the Xu family.

Hearing the mockery around her, Xia Yunlou gritted her teeth. She thought that when Anran became Mrs. Gu, she would make everyone kneel in front of her and apologize!

The Shen family had already arranged rooms for the guests to rest. After night fell, the guests all returned to their rooms to rest.

Xia Yunlou hurriedly sent someone to get Qiao Xi. After a long time, Qiao Xi walked over with sleepy eyes.

"Why are you so slow?! Do I not even have the right to call you over?" Xia Yunlou said angrily.

Qiao Xi said slowly, "Madam Xu, I was sleeping, alright? I had to change."

"Why did you bother changing? You should've come over as soon as I told you to!"

Qiao Xi was helpless. "It's already so late. Ah Zheng and I were already asleep. I was wearing pajamas. Of course, I had to change before coming out. Could it be that you think I should come out the moment you called me? It doesn't matter even if I was wearing pajamas?"

Xia Yunlou could not retort. She gritted her teeth and said, "You still have the cheek to say that? You came to the banquet with us, but you're not staying in the same room as us. Instead, you went to sleep with President Gu? How can you be so shameless?!"

Qiao Xi was angered to the point of laughing when she heard this.

"Gu Zheng is my husband. Can't we sleep together? Don't Madam Xu and Mr. Xu sleep together, then? Do you two sleep in separate beds?"

The corners of Xia Yunlou's mouth twitched slightly. "What are you talking about? Look at your shameless appearance. You're really not presentable!"

Qiao Xi sneered. "I'm not presentable? Gu Zheng and I are legally married. Is it shameless for us to sleep together? What about the two of you?"

"Sister, don't make Mom angry. She's doing this for your own good," Xu Anran said gently. "You secretly went to sleep with President Gu and didn't tell us. We've been waiting for you. We were afraid that you would be in danger!"

Xia Yunlou suppressed her anger. She could not fall out with Qiao Xi yet. No matter what, if she wanted to safely climb to the top, she had to rely on Qiao Xi. Her tone softened. "Xi Xi, I'm really doing this for your own good. Don't be stubborn."

Qiao Xi sat on the chair and poured a cup of tea. She took a sip and asked slowly, "What do you want?"

"I'm your biological mother. Why would I harm you? That's why I have something to say to you."

Qiao Xi sneered in her heart. Xia Yunlou was shameless enough to say that she was her biological mother?

Xia Yunlou said gently, "President Gu is rich, powerful, and has top-notch looks. He must have high expectations for his partner. There are countless women who want to marry him. Why did he choose you? "I don't know what method you used to get President Gu to agree to marry you, but a marriage without feelings is impossible to maintain. You grew up in the countryside and don't have any culture or temperament. You're also not a daughter of a noble family. How can you be worthy of a man like President Gu?"

"I think President Gu might have gotten married to you because of the novelty of it. However, when you're old or a better-looking woman appears by his side, you'll be abandoned. Instead of being abandoned in the future, why don't you divorce President Gu before anything happens?"

Outside the door, Song Shiyu shuddered when he heard that and felt a chill run down his spine.

Gu Zheng stood behind him, exuding a cold murderous aura.

Qiao Xi drank a few mouthfuls of tea to moisten her throat and nodded meaningfully. "Madam Xu, you're right. I can get a divorce, but you have to ask President Gu if he agrees. After all, a divorce is not a small matter. If I divorce him, who will be Mrs. Gu?"

Xia Yunlou instantly beamed. "You don't have to worry about that. As long as you take the initiative to ask for a divorce, a proud man like President Gu probably won't keep you."

As long as Qiao Xi lost Gu Zheng's protection, she would be an ordinary wild girl. How could she compete with Anran?! "But, Madam Xu, why should I get a divorce?" Qiao Xi slowly raised her eyes, and her eyes were filled with coldness. "You already said that Gu Zheng is outstanding, and I also think my husband is very outstanding. He has money and is willing to spend it on me. He can even support me. Most importantly, he's handsome. What reason do I have to divorce him?"